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Bulova Byline
Chairman's Monthly Report
May 2010

As we worked through our budget process for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, I was reminded of an old story called "Stone Soup." According to one variation of the story:

Tired, hungry soldiers came upon a little village. When they inquired about food, the villagers were reluctant to share their food stores, worried that their limited supply would become depleted.

And so, the soldiers set down their gear in the village square and produced a large pot. They filled the pot with water and a large stone, then set it over a fire. A few curious villagers walked over and asked what the soldiers were making. The captain explained that they were making something called stone soup, which tasted wonderful, but probably needed just a few more ingredients. He offered to share the soup with the villagers once it was finished.

One of the villagers returned and offered to supplement the soup with a few potatoes, which he diced and put into the simmering water. Another villager produced a bunch of carrots and another offered to share a few onions from her garden. These small but tasty contributions continued throughout the day.

Eventually the soup pot was full of a hearty, delicious soup. That evening, the entire village joined the soldiers in a satisfying feast of Stone Soup.

Last year at this time, during the most severe economic breakdown in most of our lifetimes, our Board adopted a budget which closed a projected shortfall of \$650 million. The \$3.3 billion General Fund budget we adopted included \$90.8 million of reductions and represented a decrease of \$91.9 million from the previous year.

We started our budget process for Fiscal Year 2011 well before any dust could settle on the adoption of Fiscal Year 2010. While the number is coming down we are still challenged with foreclosures, more than 700 in March 2010. Residential property values have continued to decline, this year by approximately 6%. Commercial property values dropped over 18%.

In addition, as we began the process we anticipated reductions from the State as they attempted to close their \$4.2 billion budget shortfall. We continue to be challenged with increasing demands on County services from families and individuals turning to us for help with food stamps, utility assistance, rent, housing assistance and finding employment. These dynamics all combine to challenge us once again to **close a projected shortfall – this time of \$257.2 million.**

As in the story of Stone Soup, the process of closing that shortfall has been one of impressive community engagement, creativity and collaboration among County staff and our non-profit partners. What began as a seemingly empty pot is a balanced budget that, despite \$91.3 million in reductions over last year, maintains critical services, is sensitive to the taxpayer, and protects the quality of life we value in Fairfax County.

Coupled with a positive formula change (of \$61 million) in the Local Composite Index (LCI) - State Funding to localities - **our \$1.6 billion Transfer to the Schools fully funds the Schools Board's requested budget and establishes a \$45 million balance for future Virginia Retirement System (VRS) requirements.**

The newly adopted \$3.3 billion Budget contains many reorganizational changes and efficiencies that help reduce the cost for providing services, and in many, perhaps most cases, improves the delivery of those services and programs.

Highlights of Amendments to the Advertised FY 2011 Budget include:



- A **Real Estate Tax Rate of \$1.09**, an increase of 5 cents. At this rate, the average homeowner's tax bill is a **reduction of \$48.55**;
- A ½ cent increase on the Real Estate Tax Rate for the Stormwater Service District Levy. These two rates combined result in a **net reduction** for the average homeowner's bill **of \$26.93**. This funding pays for improvements and replacements to aging stormwater infrastructure, including drainage ponds, house and yard flooding, and the dredging of stormwater lakes.
- A **Vehicle Registration Fee of \$33.00 per vehicle**. Most other localities in Virginia utilize this fee to provide local services;
- The **Sewer Service Charge increases, from \$4.50 to \$5.27**. This fee increase addresses aging sewer infrastructure and compliance with State and Federal Clean Water and environmental mandates. Our rates continue to be among the lowest in the region;
- A **\$1.6 billion Transfer to the Schools**. The Fairfax County Public Schools continue to be over 53% of the County's General Fund Budget;
- The Fiscal Year 2011 General Fund (Schools & General County Combined) Budget is a **2.7% reduction from the previous year.**

Using a **\$21.6 million Reserve** established through agency/department savings throughout Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 **the following adjustments/restorations were made to the County Executive's Advertised Budget:**

Dedicate approximately **\$3 million** to mitigate known State Reductions

Holds **\$7 million** aside for additional State Reductions and Critical Funding issues for both the County and Schools

Reduce **Board of Supervisors'** Office Budgets by 2%, resulting in **\$81,350** in savings, which is used to add one position to the **Auditor to the Board's** office. The Auditor to the Board acts as an Inspector General's Office, and works through our Board's Audit Committee.

- Human Services Council and Community Services Board (CSB) **Most Critical List is fully restored: \$1.4 million**. Restorations include:
 - Mental Health Adult Day Treatment Sites,
 - Home Respite for individuals with Intellectual Disability Services,
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs
 - Partial restoration for Domestic and Sexual Violence Services and support for Commission for Women
- Police Restorations: **\$2.8 million**
 - School Resource Officers in Middle Schools (\$2.1 million)
 - 50% of Police Citizen Aide Positions at District Stations
 - Marine Unit
 - Traffic Safety Officers
- Fire & Rescue Officers: **\$2.5 million**
 - Basic Life Support units
 - Seventh Fire & Rescue Battalion
 - Hazardous Material Support Unit
 - Second set of gear for firefighters
 - Fireboat Patrols on the Potomac River and Pohick Bay
- Parks and Library Restorations: **\$1.9 million**
 - Approximate 3% restoration for Libraries – maintains Tuesday evening hours at all 8 regional libraries
 - Library Access Services
 - Athletic Field Maintenance Program
 - Grounds maintenance staff and restores closing of restrooms
 - Nighttime court lighting and lighting for practice fiends
 - Truck Driver and Heavy Equipment (mobile Crew) positions
 - Operation and management at Martin Luther King Jr. Pool
- Other Restorations and Adjustments: **\$2.7 million**
 - All CONNECTOR routes**
 - 5 Law Clerks** supporting Circuit Court Judges
 - Support for **Families4Kids**
 - Mount Vernon District **Satellite Intake Center**



The Budget fully funds the Priority 1 requirements of the Board-Adopted **Affordable Housing Blueprint** through the use of \$4 million in operation revenues from the Wedgewood apartment complex. This funds the Bridging Affordability portion of the Blueprint. This program, a partnership with non-profits and

Faith community organizations, addresses homelessness, provides affordable housing options to those with special needs, and reduces the waiting lists for housing programs.

Budget adoption was the culmination of an unprecedented level of community engagement. Community Dialogues were held throughout the County during the fall and early winter. Throughout late February, March and early April more than 20 Town Meetings and Forums were hosted to receive feedback on the Advertised Budget. Employee Budget Briefings and Dialogues were organized by County Executive Tony Griffin and by our Unions and Employee organizations. Lastly, hundreds of speakers attended three days – over 20 hours - of public hearings.

Like the villagers' contributions in the story of Stone Soup, this generous level of public engagement enriched our process and has resulted in a better product. When we adopt a budget, we are investing in the priorities of our community. I am glad to have had the community at the table with us during these months.

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

DISEASE CARRYING INSECTS PROGRAM

This month the Board approved the annual Disease Carrying Insects Program (DCIP). The program was established in 2003 to monitor and control West Nile virus (WNV) in Fairfax County. Since then, the DCIP has expanded to include ticks and tick-borne diseases.

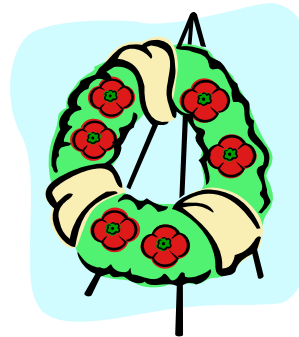
To help limit the cases of diseases transmitted by insects, the County uses surveillance programs to track mosquitoes, ticks, and avian (bird) transmissions to assess the risk to humans of WNV and other diseases. Stormwater catch basins and other mosquito breeding areas in the County will be treated using appropriate and approved larvicides. The program's educational outreach will increase residents' awareness of mosquitoes, ticks, West Nile virus, and Lyme disease.

A variety of free educational materials and other useful information are available on the Fairfax County website at:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/>.

Remember to join me at the Lyme Disease Town Meeting on Saturday, May 15 here at the Government Center! A flyer with additional information is attached.

MEMORIAL DAY 2010

Fairfax Remembers Those Who Gave All



Please join me and the veterans of Fairfax, Blue and Gray VFW Post 8469, and American Legion Post 177 on **Monday, May 31, 2010, at 9 a.m.**, to participate in a traditional Memorial Day service **at the Fairfax War Memorial**

on the lawn of the Old Fairfax Courthouse (on the corner of Route 123 and Main Street in Fairfax City).

DOCUMENT SHREDDING – MAY 1

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a document shredding event on **Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.** at the Unity of Fairfax Church, located at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Complete details for these events and other recycling opportunities planned for 2010 can be found on the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program's web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or by calling the Recycling InfoLine at 703-324-5052, TTY 711.

TYSONS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT



Fairfax County is working hard to develop new Comprehensive Plan text and a Zoning Ordinance amendment for Tysons that will guide the transformation of Tysons Corner into a walkable, transit-oriented, and environmentally friendly urban center in light of the arrival of Metrorail.

I'm so pleased to let you know about the progress of a planned development at one of the future stations that will demonstrate how a proper mix of uses, along with infrastructure improvements, can contribute to a vibrant Tysons that doesn't shut down at the end of the workday and is urban, pedestrian friendly and will shift emphasis from automobile travel to alternate forms of transportation.

Tysons West, at Leesburg Pike and Spring Hill Road, will be one of the four new Silver Line Metrorail stations being built in Tysons. While the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance amendments move through our approval process, a **demonstration project** is underway at the Tysons West site. The demonstration project will inform the planning process and explore what a specific project might look like under this new paradigm.

The demonstration project's lead developer is the Tysons-based Georgelas Group. A mix of residential, office, and retail uses are planned for the 28-acre site, designed to seamlessly integrate with the Metrorail station entrance. The site will leverage the arrival of rail with an inviting entertainment district including shops, restaurants, theaters, hotels, apartments, and offices just steps away from the station. A Kiss and Ride facility is also being incorporated to give neighbors convenient Metro access.

Key portions of the much-needed grid of streets for Tysons will be provided by the Georgelas Group as part of this project's development. Open and public spaces are being designed to be inviting, flexible in uses, and environmentally responsible. Construction of some aspects will begin as early as next year with the rest of the project phased in depending on market conditions. Learn more at: www.tysonsdemo.com/.

NOMINATE RESIDENTS FOR THE BARBARA VARON VOLUNTEER AWARD

Nominations are being accepted for Fairfax County's Barbara Varon Volunteer Award, which recognizes a county resident for dedication to improving the community through volunteer service. The award honors the memory of Barbara Varon, former chair of the Fairfax County Electoral Board. Nominations must be received by June 8, 2010. A downloadable application and additional information is available online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oep/varonaward.htm>.

NOMINATE A "CELEBRATED TREE"



The Fairfax County Tree Commission is asking residents to nominate county trees to be honored as "Celebrated Trees." Launched in conjunction with the county's celebration of Earth Day, the ongoing project recognizes big, historic, commemorative and favorite trees in Fairfax County. Nomination forms and criteria are online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trees/celebratedtrees.htm>.

PLANNING FOR RAIL IN RESTON

Reston will soon benefit from the arrival of Metrorail. Service at the Wiehle Avenue metro station will begin in December of 2013. The County owns a 9 acre site at **Wiehle Avenue** and has negotiated a development agreement to build approximately 1 million square feet of commercial, retail, hotel, and residential facilities in concert with the station. These facilities will be in place when the station opens.

Six more stations will open in 2016: Reston Parkway, Herndon-Monroe, Route 28, Dulles Airport, and Route 606 and Route 772 in Loudon County.

The **Reston Parkway station** will have entrances on both sides of the Toll Road via a pedestrian bridge crossing the toll road and access highway. There will also be bus bays and kiss & ride lots, and parking on the south side of the station at Sunrise Valley Dr. The north entrance will be within walking distance of Reston Town Center.

The County is **prioritizing transit** in Reston to make sure that we are able to take full advantage of the benefits of rail. When Wiehle Avenue opens we plan to implement a feeder bus plan with routes serving the Town Center, increase the frequency of the busses to the station so that they match train schedules, and develop dedicated bus facilities. Once the Reston Parkway station opens we will re-route bus service to serve the station entrances and develop dedicated bus facilities along Sunset Hills Rd. There are many other improvements that are planned to ensure that the stations are accessible to the community, including crosswalks, trail crossings, sidewalks, mixed use trails, and on-street bike lanes.

In addition to making transit improvements we will also be re-planning the areas around the stations to make sure we take full advantage of the benefits of Rail. Earlier this year, Supervisor Hudgins led a Reston Master Plan Special Study to identify appropriate changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan to guide development in Reston and the Dulles Corridor. More information is available at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/reston/.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Become a Fan – Stay Informed

The Fairfax County Police Department is launching new outreach tools - a Facebook Fan page and a new police emergency alert network. The Department encourages us to help keep our families and neighborhoods safer by staying informed and aware. Facebook users can become fans at: www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountypolice. There is no cost to join Facebook.

In partnership with the County's Office of Emergency Management, the public is also invited to sign up to receive police alerts on a variety of their electronic devices. A public safety category on the Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) enables the police to send geographically targeted alerts, including timely information on significant criminal incidents in neighborhoods and important announcements. Sign up for no cost at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean>.

GOOD NEWS FOR CONSUMERS

In March 2009, Dominion Virginia Power filed an application with the State Corporation Commission (SCC) requesting an increase in base rates, as well as changes to the rates, terms, and conditions for the provision of generation and distribution services. The SCC held a public hearing, for which Fairfax County submitted testimony. Following the public hearing and before the SCC issued its order, Dominion, SCC staff, and all participants reached a settlement covering the major issues in the case and in five parallel cases.

Among other things, the settlement increases the benefits to customers (industrial, commercial, and residential) to \$726 million, includes credits through 2012, and prohibits Dominion from increasing base rates prior to December 1, 2013. In addition, Dominion will refund to customers its interim base rate increase, with interest. Refunds and credits under the settlement for a typical residential customer using 1,000 KWH per month are approximately \$85.80. Base rates will remain at the August 31, 2009 level through 2013, resulting in savings to customers.

HOT LANES BRINGING IMPROVEMENTS TO OVERPASSES



Photo by Trevor Wrayton, VDOT

The Capital Beltway HOT Lanes project will replace approximately 58 aging bridges and overpasses (more than \$250 million in improvements.) Each overpass from the Springfield Interchange to the Dulles Toll Road is being rebuilt to cross the additional lanes, and the new overpasses will be bigger and better than the current structures. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be added to many locations.

At **Braddock Road**, the new overpass will have a sidewalk and on-road bike lanes. Just north of Braddock Road, the **Wakefield Park Bridge** is being modified to provide pedestrian and bicycle access to the park. From the park, bicyclists can access the Cross County Trail. Further to the north, the **Little River Turnpike** overpass has two separate spans, each with its own sidewalk and wide shoulder that will be designated as on-road bike lanes.

At **Gallows Road**, the current sidewalks will be widened and on-road bike lanes added. **Idylwood Road** and **Oak Street** will have new sidewalks, and the Oak Street bridge will have also have on-road bike lanes on both sides.

The **W&OD bike trail bridge** is solely for non-motorized use. Trail users will be able to use the old bridge while crews construct the new bridge offline over the beltway.

Up in the Tysons area, the **Leesburg Pike bridge** will have wide sidewalks on both sides. Just north of Leesburg Pike, the **Westpark Drive bridge** will widen from two to four lanes and link directly to the HOT Lanes. There will be

sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and on-road bike lanes. This is similar to **the Jones Branch Connector** where a new bridge is being added for HOT Lanes access with a sidewalk on one side for future connections. Finally, at **Lewinsville Road** there will be sidewalks and on-road bike paths on either side, linking McLean with Tysons Corner.

FAIRFAX COUNTY RESTORATION PROJECT

In the April Byline, there was an article about the ongoing HOT Lanes construction and efforts to mitigate environmental impacts. That article incorrectly credited Fairfax ReLeaf as the organization coordinating the environmental restoration effort; credit should go to the Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP).



FCRP is an exciting new public-private partnership whose purpose is to strengthen the relationship between people and nature through community action. Mutual concerns about the HOT Lanes construction inspired residents, non-profit organizations and county agencies to form the Project, but their goal is much broader - to connect, create, and promote efforts to restore ecosystem functions in Fairfax County through collaboration with public, private, and volunteer organizations. FCRP has received help from the county's Office of Public-Private Partnerships and will accomplish its mission by building upon efforts already being undertaken by non-profit community organizations, government agencies, and interested members of the business community.

Fairfax ReLeaf is a great non-profit organization which plants and preserves trees on common and public land throughout the County. We are fortunate to have both Fairfax ReLeaf and the Fairfax County Restoration Project working to improve our local environment. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved with either group, please contact my office.

Protect yourself from Lyme Disease...



2010 LYME DISEASE SUMMIT

PRESENTED BY

Chairman Sharon Bulova

Supervisor Linda Smyth

With Special Guest

Congressman Gerry Connolly

You're Invited!

May 15th, 2010

10 AM— Noon

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035



Lyme Disease Panel Discussion

-featuring-

Dr. Ben Beard, Chief of Bacterial Diseases Branch, CDC

Dr. James Mead, Chief of Epidemiology and Surveillance, CDC

Dr. Peter Troell, Medical Epidemiologist, Fairfax County Health Dept.

Informational booths provided by-

*National Capital Lyme Disease Association,
Fairfax County Health Department and others*

Do you have questions for our panelists?

E-mail your questions or comments to

Steven.jerry@mail.house.gov

